Procurement on Diamond Roughs by MMTC

1072. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MMTC has been procuring diamond roughs from primary producting countries;

(b) whether these are distributed to exports;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether the M.M.T.C. has a list of appraisers on its record;

(e) whether it is a fact that these appraisers have been collecting huge amounts from exporters; and

(f) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) MMTC has been procuring diamond roughs from primary sources. Diamonds procured by MMTC, including those from primary sources, are placed on sale in its diamond division in Bombay and sold to licence holders at market prices as is being done by a large number of other private companies in diamond business. It does not have a list of appraisers on its record. However, it has in its employment senior assorters.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

Woollen Carpet Industry in U.P.

1073. SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that handmade woollen carpet industry is crippled in Uttar Pradesh and elesewhere due to high import duties and due to fall in wool production; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer of Employees of Delhi Branch of State Bank of Indore

1074. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that State Bank of Indore has been served notice by the Assistant Labour Commissioner (C), New Delhi regarding transfer of some employees of the Delhi Branch; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons not carrying out the orders of the said Assistant Labour Commissioner, New Delhi and by when these are going to be complied with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No such notice has been served by the Assistant Labour Commissioner (C), Delhi to the State Bank of Indore.

(b) Does not airse.

Work Permit issued to Mr. Nusli Wadia

1075. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Nusli Wadia, Chairman, Bombay Dyeing is a British citizen holding British passport;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Mr. Nusli Wadia has been granted a work permit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has applied for renewal of his work permit;

(d) whether Government have renewed his work permit;

(e) what are the reasons for issuing work permit to a British passport holder in India; and

(f) what are the norms for issuing work permits to foreigners in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) There is no system of granting work permit to foreigners under the Foreigners Act, 1946 or the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 or Rules framed thereunder.

Baggage of an Indian Diplomat searched by the Royal Fiji Military Forces

1076. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Diplomat was searched by the Royal Fiji Military Forces recently;

(b) whether such a search is against the Vienna Convention;

(c) whether Government have lodged a protest with the Fiji Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, what is Fiji Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) On 4th June, 1987, security personnel at Nadi airport in Fiji checked the baggage of Dr. V. K. Verma, then First Secretary in the Indian High Commission in Suva, on his arrival from a visit abroad.

(b) The vienna Convetnion does not preclude search of a diplomat's baggage in certain circumstances, but such action is contrary to normal diplomatic practice.

(c) A strong protest was lodged by our High Commissioner with the Fiji Foreign Office.

(d) Fiji's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs in a letter to our High Commissioner has regretted the incident and reaffirmed an assurance given earlier by the Governor General that the Governmnet of Fiji was fully committed to comply with the Vienna Convention as incorpoarted in Fiji's laws.

Smuggling of tiger bones and skins

1077. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the skins and bones of tigers are being smuggled out of the country because a tiger's skin fetches between Rs. 1 to 10 lakhs and tiger bones are in great demand for medicinal purposes in China;

(b) how many such cases came to the notice of Government during the last three years and what action was taken to punish the guilty;

(c) whether Government suspect that the large scale killing of tigers in Dudhwa National Park were directly linked with the smugglers' activities and if so, what action has been taken to bust the smugglers' gang; and

(d) what fresh initiative, besides the Project Tiger, do Government propose to take to ensure that the poaching of tigers stops?